GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1301
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
FOREIGN AGENCIES FOR SURVEYING SHIPS/FISHING VESSELS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign agencies to offer their services for surveying ships and fishing vessels flying the Indian flag or waiting to work in Indian waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of foreign surveyor firms engaged for this work;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise this work which is presently being done by the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD); and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the monopoly of MMD in this field?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government has already delegated surveying authority to foreign Classification Societies as well as one Indian Classification Society namely, Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). In so far as survey of foreign flagships and fishing vessels are concerned, they are governed by the respective flags' rules. The foreign Classification Societies who have been delegated surveying authority for Indian flag vessels are as follows:

1. American Bureau of Shipping

2. Lloyds Register

3. Bureau Veritas

4. Det Norske Veritas

5. Germanischer Lloyd
6. Nippon Kaiji Kyokal

(c) & (d): No, Sir. There is no possibility of privatizing the statutory survey work which is being done by MMDs. Government has ratified various International Conventions on Safety of Ships and Pollution Prevention and under the provisions of these Conventions is directly responsible for ensuring that the Indian ships comply fully with the requirements of all the Conventions ratified by it. Hence although major survey work of Indian ships has been delegated to the Classifications Societies, MMDs are required to monitor their work/survey reports. Moreover each Maritime Administration is expected to carry out Port State Control inspections of foreign ships calling its ports in sufficient numbers under the provisions of IMO instruments, so as to ensure that sub-standard ships do not call its ports. The Port State Control inspections have to be carried out by properly trained Administration Surveyors only.